



Unanticipated Emergencies



Kalamazoo Oil Spill

In late July, a ruptured pipeline owned by Enbridge, Inc., spewed more than 800,000 gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River system. The Wildlife Division responded by assigning various staffers to the scene to monitor the situation and help in wildlife rescue operations. The costs associated with the emergency response will be borne by Enbridge. Wildlife billed Enbridge a total of \$205,976 through Dec. 31, 2010. The bulk of the bill, \$199,148, was for payroll expenses, and other costs include contractual services and travel expenses.

Wildlife staff members took the opportunity to band birds that were exposed to oil, then cleaned and released. A total of 129 birds – 114 Canada geese, nine mallards, four wood ducks and two great blue herons – were banded and released. Division staff also helped clean, stabilize and release other wildlife such as muskrats, beavers, songbirds and thousands of turtles.



Top: the July 2010 Enbridge oil spill contaminated the Kalamazoo River system with more than 800,000 gallons of oil
Bottom: volunteers help clean, stabilize and release a variety of oiled wildlife; the Wildlife Division banded 129 birds, which were released